AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~evaluating renal functions~~ diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy, comprising:

(a) obtaining a ~~biological specimen~~ urine sample;

(b) contacting said sample with a reagent comprising an anti-megsin protein antibody;

(c) measuring the amount of megsin protein ~~in said specimen~~ bound to said anti-megsin protein antibody; and

(d) ~~evaluating renal functions by~~ comparing said amount with the megsin protein amount present in a control ~~specimen~~ urine sample from a healthy individual~~.~~ ; and

(e) diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy when said amount of bound megsin protein is higher than that in the control sample.

2. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~evaluating renal functions~~ diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim 1, wherein the anti-megsin protein antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

6. (Currently Amended) A reagent for diagnosing ~~renal functions~~ mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy, which comprises ~~an~~ a first anti-megsin protein antibody ~~against~~ that recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:~~11,~~ 12, ~~14 or 17.~~ and a second antibody that recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said first anti-megsin protein antibody is bound to the surface of a granule.

7. (Currently Amended) The reagent for diagnosing ~~renal functions~~ mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim 6, wherein ~~the anti-megsin protein antibody is a monoclonal antibody~~ the first and second anti-megsin protein antibodies are both monoclonal antibodies.

8. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting megsin protein in a biological specimen, comprising the following steps of:

(i) contacting said biological specimen with a solid granule, wherein ~~to the surface of which~~ a first anti-megsin protein antibody is bound to the surface of said granule to for a first antibody megsin protein complex;

(ii) contacting said granule with a second anti-megsin protein antibody labeled with a marker molecule to obtain ~~an antigen-antibody~~ first antibody megsin protein-second antibody complex~~, wherein the second antibody is against the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, 12, 14 or 17~~; and,

(iii) detecting the megsin protein by detection of marker molecule in the complex obtained in step (ii),

wherein ~~the first and second antibody are each against the same or different amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:11, 12, 14 or 17~~ said first antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, and said second antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

13. (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the first anti-megsin protein antibody and the second anti-megsin protein antibody are both monoclonal antibodies.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the biological specimen is urine.

16. (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the biological specimen is blood.

17. (Currently Amended) A kit for detecting megsin proteins, which comprises the following elements:

(a) ~~the granule of claim 8,~~ a solid magnetic granule for detecting megsin protein in a biological specimen, wherein an anti-megsin protein antibody recognizing a polypeptide consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12 is bound to the surface of the granule; ~~wherein the solid granule is magnetic, and~~

(b) a magnet; and

(c) an anti-megsin protein antibody labeled with a marker molecule, wherein said antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

18. (Canceled)

19. (New) The method for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim 1, wherein the mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy is IgA nephropathy or minimal-change nephritic syndrome.